Identify controls

• Know the skin hazards on the jobsite. Read the label or (material) safety data sheet ((M)SDS) for a controlled product before using it. Look for phrases such as “skin sensitization” or “skin irritant”.
• Use gloves and other protective equipment specific to the hazard (consult the (M)SDS).
• Avoid excessive hand washing and don’t work with wet hands.
• Use mild soaps when washing your hands. Don’t use solvents.
• Apply hand cream to prevent your skin from drying out.
• Inspect your clothing throughout the shift for contamination, in particular your knees, forearms, and boots. If contaminated, change into dry clothing and wash the affected area.
• If working with wet concrete, tape the top of your boots to your pants, and tape your gloves to your wrists to prevent contact.

Demonstrate

Ask the crew to inspect their hands for signs of dryness, redness, flaking, or cracking. These are early signs of dermatitis and indicate the need for stronger skin protection measures.

Show workers the proper types of gloves they will need for the kind of work they will be doing. Show them how to prevent materials from contacting their skin or getting trapped in clothing.